

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

OIC-02 INRE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 FMC-01 DOTE-00 AGR-05

AGRE-00 OES-06 STR-04 FEAE-00 ERDA-05 ERDE-00 /101 W

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TO SECSTATE WASH DC IMMEDIATE 3566

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OECD, EGEN

SUBJECT: XCSS OCTOBER 14-15: EAST-WEST RELATIONS

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SUBSTANTIVE PORTION OF SECRETARIAT'S
ANNOTATIONS TO AGENDA ITEM ON EAST-WEST ECONOMIC
RELATIONS FOR OCTOBER 14-15 MEETING OF XCSS:

BEGIN TEXT

1. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING ON
6TH JULY, AND AS BACKGROUND FOR THE PRESENT MEETING,
THE SECRETARIAT HAS PREPARED AND CIRCULATED TWO
DOCUMENTS:

- (1) CE(76)19, WHICH IS A SUMMARY DESCRIPTION
IN ONE PLACE OF THE WORK OF ONE OR ANOTHER

BODY OF THE ORGANIZATION IN RECENT YEARS
ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF EAST-WEST ECONOMIC
RELATIONS; AND

- (2) CE(76)20, WHICH IS A SUMMARY OF FACTUAL
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INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE

SECRETARIAT COVERING CERTAIN BROAD ASPECTS
OF THE FIELD.

2. AS DESCRIBED IN CE(76)19, ACTIVITIES WERE ALREADY UNDER WAY PRIOR TO THE LAST MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ONE OR ANOTHER PART OF THE ORGANIZATION ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS, SUCH AS EAST-WEST TRADE, EXPORT CREDITS, MARITIME TRANSPORT, AGRICULTURE, AND FISHING. DELEGATES MAY WISH TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THE SCOPE AND DIRECTION OF WORK IN THESE SPECIFIC FIELDS.

3. IN CE(76)20, THE SECRETARIAT HAS INDICATED THAT, WHILE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE STATISTICS ARE THOUGHT TO BE BROADLY INDICATIVE OF MANY OF THE MAJOR TRENDS, THERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT TOPICS--NOTABLY WITH RESPECT TO THE EXTERNAL DEBT OF EASTERN COUNTRIES, NON-TRADE ITEMS OF THE EAST-WEST BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS, AND EAST-SOUTH TRADE AND PAYMENTS--WHERE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE STATISTICS, WHICH ARE COMPARATIVELY SOFT, COULD PROBABLY BE IMPROVED WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF EFFORT, AND WHERE A MORE PRECISE UNDERSTANDING OF RECENT TRENDS WOULD CALL FOR SOME SUCH IMPROVEMENTS.

4. ALTHOUGH AVAILABLE FACTUAL MATERIALS (WITH CERTAIN RESERVATIONS AS EXPRESSED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH) DO PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF RECENT TRENDS IN EAST-WEST TRADE, AT LEAST IN BROAD OUTLINE, IT IS FAR FROM CLEAR AT THIS MOMENT WHAT THESE TRENDS MAY PORTEND FOR THE COMING YEARS, ANWHAT EVOLUTION MAY BE DESIRABLE OR FORTHCOMING. ANY SUCH ASSESSMENT WOULD REQUIRE DEEPER AND MORE SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS THAN SO FAR ATTEMPTED BY THE SECRETARIAT, GOING INTO SUCH FACTORS AS PROSPECTIVE DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS IN RELATION TO EXPORTS, THE POTENTIAL FOR, AND OBSTACLES TO, THE EXPANSION OF EXPORTS BY EASTERN COUNTRIES, A SEPARATION OF CYCLICAL FROM STRUCTURAL FACTORS AS AN EXPLANATION OF RECENT TRENDS, THE OUTLOOK FOR GROWTH AND STABILITY IN THE USSR'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, INVESTMENT AND TRADE DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE CEMA AREA THAT COULD AFFECT TRADING PATTERNS WITH THE WEST, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THE COST AND AVAILABILITY OF EASTERN ENERGY AND RAW MATERIAL RESERVES IN RELATION TO PROSPECTIVE DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS. DELEGATES MAY WISH TO EXPRESS VIEWS ON THE DESIRABILITY OF UNDERTAKING, WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION, ANALYSES ALONG THESE LINES, IN ORDER TO BETTER ANTICIPATE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.

5. IT WILL BE NOTED THAT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF EAST-WEST

RELATIONS MENTIONED AS IMPORTANT TO AT LEAST SOME
GOVERNMENTS--SUCH AS TRADE RECIPROCITY, DUMPING, THE
TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND INVESTMENT ISSUES--
NEITHER LEND THEMSELVES TO SIMPLE STATISTICAL SUMMARY,

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NOR RECEIVE ATTENTION IN THE PRESENT PROGRAM OF WORK
OF THE ORGANIZATION, AND ARE THUS NOT DEALT WITH IN ANY
OF THE DOCUMENTS SO FAR MADE AVAILABLE. DELEGATES ARE
INVITED TO SAY WHAT ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE SECRE-
TARIAT, IF ANY, THESE TOPICS WARRANT.

6. ATTENTION IS CALLED TO THE FACT THAT THE STATISTICAL
MATERIALS PRESENTED EXCLUDE, IN MOST CASES, ACTIVITIES
OF THE CENTRALLY-PLANNED ECONOMIES OF ASIA. THE
PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS IMPLICITLY
SEEMED TO INDICATE PRIMARY CONCERN WITH EASTERN EUROPE.
HOWEVER, DELEGATES ARE REQUESTED TO SAY EXPLICITLY WHE-
THER FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION SHOULD

INCLUDE OR EXCLUDE CHINA AND THE OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF ASIA.

7. BECAUSE OF THE RELATIVE MAGNITUDES INVOLVED, IT IS PERHAPS NOT SURPRISING THAT NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC RELATIONS HAVE RECEIVED MUCH MORE ATTENTION THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EAST-SOUTH RELATIONS. HOWEVER, MEMBER GOVERNMENTS MAY FEEL THAT BROADER PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF EAST-SOUTH ECONOMIC RELATIONS IS RELEVANT TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS, AND THEY MAY HAVE SOME SUGGESTIONS TO MAKE ON HOW THAT MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED.

8. THE DOCUMENTS PREPARED SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION REPRESENT A FIRST ATTEMPT WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION (ALTHOUGH IN ONLY A VERY SUMMARY AND PRELIMINARY FASHION) TO TAKE AN OVERVIEW OF THE FIELD OF EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN SOME OF ITS BROADER ASPECTS. IN THE COURSE OF DOING SO, THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS COME TO BELIEVE THAT CERTAIN IMPORTANT INSIGHTS INTO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM ARE PROVIDED FROM THIS BROADER PERSPECTIVE THAT WOULD BE OBSCURED IF ONLY A FRAGMENTED APPROACH WERE CONTINUED. HE THEREFORE INVITES THE VIEWS OF DELEGATES ON HOW BEST TO MAINTAIN THIS BROADER PERSPECTIVE IN THE ON-GOING WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION. END TEXT
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